

REMARKS

Consideration of this application as amended on its merits is respectfully requested. Claims 1-3 have been canceled, claims 10-14 have been added, and thus, claims 4-14 remain in this application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 4-9 as being anticipated by Scott (US Pat. No. 5,669,412, referred to hereafter as "Scott"). Claim 4 has been amended to more clearly recite patentable subject matter over Scott, and thus, for at least the reasons that follow, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn, and the claims allowed.

As amended, claim 4 claims a ring seal with separable transport and assembly aid. The recitation includes a rubber ring seal having a periphery and a carrying frame extending about the periphery. The carrying frame has a plurality of frangible mounting lugs extending from the carrying frame, wherein the mounting tabs are embedded within the ring seal. The mounting tabs are separable from the carrying frame so that the carrying frame can be selectively detached from said ring seal with the mounting lugs remaining embedded within the ring seal.

In contrast, Scott provides a two-piece check valve assembly 10, 110, 210. The check valve assemblies each have a rubber seal element 12, 112, 212 and a carrier member 14, 114, 214 that is entirely separable from the seal element. As detailed in stated objectives of the summary (Col. 1, lines 48-61), the check valve assembly provides a two-piece snap-together device that permits individual molding of the components. The seal element can be removed from the carrier member so that it can be removed and replaced when worn, without having to replace the entire assembly. As such, Scott does not provide a ring seal with separable transport and assembly aid, as claimed by Applicants. Scott does not disclose or suggest a carrying frame with a plurality of frangible mounting lugs extending therefrom and being embedded within a ring seal, wherein the mounting lugs are separable from the carrying frame so that the carrying

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frame can be selectively detached from said ring seal with the mounting lugs remaining embedded within the ring seal.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that amended claim 4 defines patentable subject matter and to be in proper form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-9 have been amended to refer back to amended claim 4 properly, and thus, are dependant upon amended claim 4. Claim 9 has been further amended to correct a grammatical error. Accordingly, amended claims 5-9 are believed to define patentable subject matter for at least the same reasons stated above in support of amended claim 4. Such action is respectfully requested.

New Claims

Claims 10-14 have been added for a method for producing, transporting and assembling a seal assembly. No new matter has been added.

The method of claim 10 includes providing a transport and assembly aid having a carrying frame with a plurality of frangible mounting lugs extending outwardly therefrom. Then, molding a seal body to the mounting lugs in a molding machine with the mounting lugs being embedded within the seal body; moving the carrying frame with the seal body molded thereto from the molding machine to a location for assembly of the seal assembly, and then breaking the carrying frame from the seal body with the mounting lugs remaining embedded in the seal body.

Claims 11-14 are dependent upon the method of claim 10.

Applicants contend that none of the references cited disclose or suggest a method for producing, transporting and assembling a seal assembly, as claimed. Accordingly, Applicants believe that newly added claims 10-14 define patentable subject matter and to be in proper form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

It is believed that this application now is in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is requested.

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The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to
Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

Respectfully submitted,

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